IRONDALE NEWSLETTER

Produced by the Bark Lake Cultural Developments

April /May 2021

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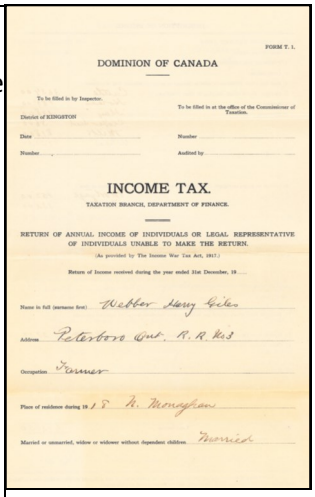
TAXING TIMES – BUT ONLY TEMPORARY?!

March and April are months when Canadians prepare their federal income tax returns. While "death and taxes" may be inevitable, income tax has not always been a part of Canadian life. Prior to 1914, most federal revenues came from customs and excise duties, with most provincial money gathered from permits and licenses, while municipalities levied property taxes.

The First World War created a tremendous debt for the Canadian government. As a result, Parliament passed the Income War Tax Act in August 1917. It applied to companies, associations, and individuals (including women, who as yet could not vote) with annual earnings of $3,000 – or $1,500 for unmarried persons and widows/widowers without dependent children. The 1917 base rate was 4% with additional surtaxes on incomes of $6,000 or more.


DOMINION OF CANADA

INCOME TAX.

TAXATION BRANCH, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE.

RETURN OF ANNUAL INCOME OF INDIVIDUALS OR LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIVIDUALS UNABLE TO MAKE THE RETURN.

Peterborough Archives
Accession no: 1998-016

Although income tax was introduced as a temporary measure – Finance Minister Sir Thomas White stated at the time "I have placed no time limit upon this measure . . . a year or two after the war is over, the measure should be reviewed" – the Act remained until its replacement in 1948 by the permanent Income Tax Act.

The Peterborough Museum and Archives holds a completed 1917 income tax return for North Monaghan farmer Harry Giles Webber. While the return is shorter than today's, apparently the new tax paperwork presented a challenge for this one taxpayer: in the file with his return is correspondence between Mr Webber and tax inspectors over two years. The first government letter informs him that his improperly-filled-out form is being returned, then continues "If you will pay more attention to the sheet and less attention to trying to figure out the difference between horses and cows it will make matters easier for both yourself and me." A bit snarky, since farmers would be much more familiar with horses and cows than a newly-introduced tax form.

I certainly will think of Harry Webber in the next few weeks as I am surrounded by tax forms and documents, hoping that the only correspondence I receive from Revenue Canada will be quick and include a refund cheque. Good luck with yours.

Don Willcock
** copied verbatim with permission from Peterborough Museum & Archives, www.peterborough.ca/en/explore-and-play/museum-and-archives.aspx

Back Row: l to r - George Simmons, Emma Hancock, Frederick S. Challener, Grace Simmons
Front Row: l to r - Jack Bays & wife Betty Bays, Margaret Ethelreda Wilson & husband Dr. James Allen

Recently looking at photographs for inspiration - came across this one. In past conversations I had heard the name Frederick Challener, an artist and thought it deserved investigation.

Who was he? What did he paint? How did he end up sitting on a couch in Irondale? See pg 3

Milkweed & Monarchs

The lowly milkweed, has been in the spotlight recently as the preferred habitat of Monarch Butterflies, particularly at the caterpillar stage. According to the Canadian Wildlife Federation, the population of Monarch Butterflies has declined over 70% since 2000, largely due to habitat loss, climate change and the use of pesticides. This decline may be even worse in southern Ontario.

Monarch butterflies migrate south to Mexico each winter and need a corridor of food and shelter to survive the trip. Canadians are encouraged to plant common milkweed and other butterfly-friendly plants on their properties and to reduce the use of pesticides. Many communities are involved in this effort to create a butterfly-way. Those of you on internet can watch a Monarch swarm as the butterflies awake from their winter rest - all captured by a tiny drone disguised as a Hummingbird at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWOySU_hAz0

Monarch Butterfly on milkweed flowers;

harvested milkweed pods

WWII life jacket

Milkweed & WWII

Milkweed used to grow in abundance along fields and roadways. Some may recall breaking open the dried pods to release the silky fibres and seeds into the wind. In the 1940's, milkweed was vital, not only for Monarchs but also for the war effort.

Life jackets were important to both airmen and navy vessels during the war, and were traditionally filled with a material called kapok, which came from a tree native to southeast Asia. But during WWII, Japan cut off the supply chains and kapok was no longer available… an immediate substitute was required.

Enter the common milkweed plant. With its light silky floss, milkweed provided a free, local substitute for kapok. But since most able-bodied men were at war, and women were busy on the home front, it was children who were heavily relied upon to collect the milkweed.

In Canada and over 25 US States, children and some adults collected milkweed. The milkweed pods had to be harvested in the fall when just ripe and then were dried in large onion bags. Approximately 20 lbs of ripe milkweed pods were required to make a single life preserver and the slogan "two bags save a life" was used. That's a lot of milkweed!

Students from Linton School collect milkweed pods for the war effort.

Public School Pupils Gather Milkweed

The Aurora public school children have this week been gathering milk weed pods for the Dominion Department of griculture.

The floss from the milk weed is urgently required for making life preservers and other buoyant equipment for the armed forces.

The Agricultural Supplies Board provides bags for collecting, each of which holds a bushel-of-pods.

The children have to date collected fifty bags of pods and would appreciate hearing from anyone who knows of any large patches of milkweed.

Worthy of the highest commendation, honour goes to pupils of S.S. 18, Linton school for their outstanding war labor, the collection of 410 bags of milkweed pods, amounting to approximately one and one half tons. Under the inspiration of the teacher, Miss Evelyn Courtney, the achievement has provincial wide interest and ranks first in the Inspectorate.

It has all been done by the pupils after hours, with the exception of an hour or so, and has incorporated patience, perseverance, and loyalty to the war effort. It serves as an example that so few can do so much when the motive is unselfish service to a noble cause. Inspector H. E. Horton is justly proud of the effort and other schools of the township join in congratulating Linton school.

Aurora Banner excerpts

Nov 8, 1944 Nov 17, 1944

2,553 Life Preservers From York County Milk Weed

To the children of York County goes the credit of gathering enough milkweed floss to make 2553 life preservers or Mae Wests for sailors or airmen. During the fall the school pupils were organized by the various school inspectors to collect onion bags of milkweed pods for the Munitions and Supplies Board to be used as a substitute for Kapok which formerly came from Java, now occupied by the Japanese.

A total of 5116 bags of about 800 pods each represents over four million pods picked and packed by the loyal pupils and their teachers who co-operated in this project. It takes an average of two bags to make a life preserver after the pods are processed to remove the hulls and seeds.

Each township and urban municipality co-operated in collecting the bags from their respective schools and these loads were in turn assembled at Woodbridge on Friday last when 4300 bags were packed into one box car to be sent to Michigan for processing. After the heavier material is removed two bags yield the half pound of floss or fluc to make a life preserver. The balance of the York County shipment including a considerable quantity from Toronto and suburbs was trucked to other points to complete car-lots in other districts.

Inspector O. M. MacKillop of Richmond Hill had the largest number of schools co-operating in York County while Inspector J. E. Horton of Bradford, who covers parts of several counties had what to date stands as the record school. He has reason to be proud of the record of S.S. No. 18 King, known as the Linton school which received a cheque for $32.00 for their 410 bags gathered on Saturday milkweed excursions organized by their teacher, Miss Evelyn Courtney.

The Agricultural Committee of York County Council co-operated with the local Agricultural office in organizing the assembly of this material for shipment.

14 shopping days till Christmas.

Teachers at country schools were asked to coordinate milkweed harvesting with their students. In King Township, students at Linton School SS #18 under the direction of teacher Miss Evelyn Courtney went above and beyond!
They picked 410 bags - that's about 1 1/2 tonnes - of milkweed for the war effort outside of school time!

In the U.S., some of these milkweed heroes have reunited with soldiers from WWII. If you know anyone who picked milkweed for the war effort here in King Township, please contact the King Heritage & Cultural Centre at 905-833-2331 or kingmuseum@king.ca.

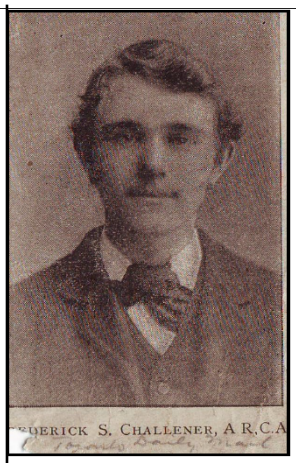
Editor's Note - - I don't recall ever hearing about milkweed used in this fashion and felt our readers may be interested.

The above article was part of 'Stories of King' and shared with consent from the King Heritage & Cultural Centre. They would like you to visit the rest of the stories at https://treasured.ca and their website https://www.king.ca/KHCC

Jeopardy for Seniors

1. After the Lone Ranger saved the day and rode off into the sunset, the grateful citizens would ask, "Who was that masked man?" Someone would answer, "I don't know but he left this behind." What did he leave behind?
2. When the Beatles first came to the U.S. in early 1964, we all watched them on what show?
3. Finish this sentence, "Get your kicks _____"
4. Complete this sentence, "The story you are about the see is true. The names have been changed to _____."
5. Finish this jingle, "In the jungle, the might jungle, _____."
6. After the Twist, the Mashed Potato & the Watusi, we danced under a stick that was lowered, as low as we could go in a dance called the ____
7. "Nestle's makes the very best _____!."
8. Satchmo was America's Ambassador of Goodwill. Our parents shared this great jazz player with us. His name was _____.
9. What take a licking and keeps on ticking? _____
10. Red Skelton's hobo character was named _____. Red always ended his TV show by saying, "Good night and ___."
11. Some Americans who protested the Vietnam War did so by burning their _____.
12. The cute little car with the engine in the back and the trunk in the front was called the VW. What other names did it go by? _____ or _____
13. In 1971, singer Don MacLean sand a song about 'the day the music died". This was a tribute to _____ .
14. We can remember the first satellite placed into orbit. The Russians did it. It was called _____
15. One of the fads of the late '50s & '60s was a large plastic ring that we twirled around our waist. What was it called?
16. Remember LS/MFT? What do those letters stand for?
17. "Hey Kids! What time is it? It's _____!"
18. Who knows what secrets lie in the hearts of men? Only the _____ knows!
19. There was a song that came out in the '60s that was 'a grave yard smash". What was the title?
20. Alka Seltzer used a 'boy with a tablet on his head' as its logo. What was the boy's name?

Put your thinking caps on —
We will have the answers for you in the next issue.

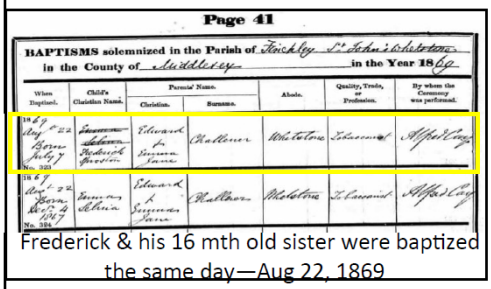


Frederick S. Challener, A. R. C. A

Born in July 7,1869 to Edwin and Emma Jane (Wood) Challener in Whetstone, England. He first came to Canada with his parents and sister Emma Selina in 1870.

There were three more siblings born while in Canada - Alfred 1871, Florence 1873 and Lillian 1877. The family had returned to England by 1879 when Eliza was born and Ada 1880.

Frederick was educated at St. Paul's School, Stratford, Essex. He returned to Toronto at the age of 14. He got a job in a stockbroker's office on King Street and during his free time he sketched crowds outside his office window. He spent his lunch hours in front of the Notman and Fraser photography studio, where Canadian artists regularly exhibited. Long story shortened - his talent was 'discovered', he went on to study and teach.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BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of St. John's Whetstone in the County of Middlesex in the Year 1869

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Name. Christian.	Parents' Name. Surname.	Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
1869 Aug. 22 Born July 7 No. 323	Frederick Gordon	Edward & Emma Jane	Challener	Whetstone	Tobacconist	Alfred King
1869 Aug. 22 Born Sept. 12 1867 No. 324	Emma Selina	Edward & Emma Jane	Challener	Whetstone	Tobacconist	Alfred King

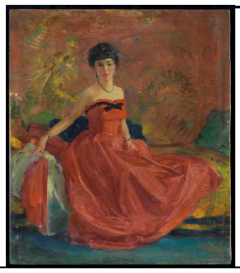
Frederick & his 16 mth old sister were baptized the same day—Aug 22, 1869

Challener and C.W. Jefferys attended Reid's classes at the same time becoming good friends. Later they worked together on a number of murals and their collaboration often resulted in both artists insisting that the other be given credit for the work. Challener later made several historical paintings based on C.W. Jefferys' drawings. His artist life is e xtensively covered in "A Dictionary of Canadian Artists"; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_Challener; https://dotydocs.theatreinlondon.ca/Archives/grand/mural.htm#grand

Frederick married Ethel White in Illinois, USA on 20 Feb 1902. The couple had 7 children - 6 girls and a boy. This photo was taken @1915 The boy drowned in 1908, the youngest wasn't born.

L to R—back row — Elizabeth, Barbara, Frederick, Ethel, Catherine
L to R—front row — Helen, Emma (Fred's mother) and Lillian

Margaret E. Wilson (related to the Wilson's on Hancock Rd in Irondale) and husband Dr. J. Allen befriended Challener when she was teaching art in Toronto and brought him to the Irondale area on holidays to paint.



← *Margaret Ethelreda Wilson*, 1939
Challener, Frederick S.
Oil on panel
Overall: 26.5 x 20.8 cm

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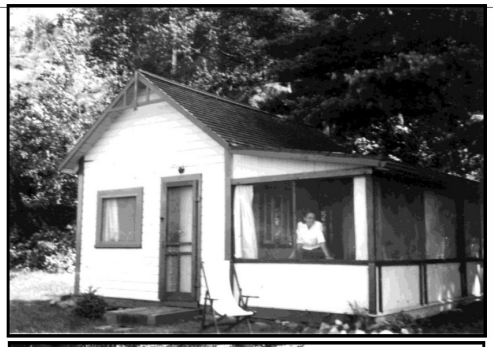
From
Douglas & Audrey Russell's
Photo Album



Douglas & Lillian Russell had three boys—John (Jack), Bill and Doug. Doug married Audrey, one of their children is Gary. Gary Russell, of Hamilton with a cottage on Salerno Lake had sent me oodles of pictures scanned from his parents' photo albums.

I have been asked for any stories that you may have about the Douglas & Lillian generation.

Kim Symon is one of John (Jack) Russell's daughters. She writes that she is putting together family genealogy and is seeking some assistance. Do you have info that I can share with her - historical@IrondaleOntario.ca

I'd love to have names for the folks in these pictures as well.

Tom Smith
son of Gordon Smith
~ Jan 29, 2021 ~

Diane Kernohan
wife of Joe Magee of Kinmount
~ Feb 13, 2021 ~

Kevin Murphy
brother to Ian Murphy
~ Feb 19, 2021 ~

Dorothy Bulmer
related to the Simmons families
~ Mar 31, 2021 ~

Wishing you peace to bring comfort,
courage to face the days ahead
and loving memories to forever hold in your heart.

Some of you will remember Gordon & Verna from weekly euchre parties ...

Gordon shared with us ... "Tom was my eldest son. I don't think he was known much in your area. He was an architect here - Tom drew the plans for our cottage on White Lake. He came with my family to the area a few summers, probably knew Ted and Jean Thomson and a few folks around White Lake. Tom was 67, lived and practiced locally here in Santa Barbara. Tom and I played a lot of cribbage and had lunch together 3 days a week. I really miss his visits, since I live alone after Verna died. Tom was in a car crash on the freeway here Jan 29 and the stress caused a fatal heart attack, he died at the scene. I still have my daughter Barbara Reed in Boston and son Donald in Arizona and my brother Don (97) in Stratford Ontario.

I hope the border will be open for the summer so I can go to my cottage and see everybody again. I just passed my 93rd birthday Jan. 1st." Gordon Smith, Santa Barbara California & White Lake, Ontario

I Wish I Could Have Asked...

Patti Mordasewicz, Editor, eWeekly Update

Every once in a while you come across an idea so "obvious" that you do a Homer Simpson – a whack on the forehead followed by "DOH". That was my awakening last week. ***Internet Genealogy/Your Genealogy Today*** sends out a regular newsletter called *Research Tips & More*. If you don't already receive it, https://yourgenealogytoday.com It is a quick read filled with ideas!

In last week's edition there was a single paragraph that caused my DOH moment – it was entitled *What My Grandkids Should Have Asked Me*, written by Lynn Cassity. How many hundreds (perhaps thousands) of times have you heard a family historian say "I wish I could ask..." But what about the questions we're not being asked? Every time Lynn comes across a question she would have liked to have asked, she writes it down. Lynn's idea is simple – she now has a file on her desktop called ***Things My Grandkids Should Have Asked Me***. The questions go in that document.

Let's take the idea a step further. Let's put in at least short answers to the questions!

Giving the generations of the future a view into our live - after all one day we will be history.

We can all use a chuckle.

A chicken walks into a library and up to the desk. "Buk" says the chicken. So the librarian gives him a book. The chicken leaves with the book and returns five minutes later. "Buk," he says. So the librarian gives him another book.

This goes on about eight more times, until the librarian leaves the library and goes outside on a break in back where there is a pond.

The chicken is standing on the edge of the pond tossing books to a frog on a lily pad. The chicken says 'Buk, Buk" and the frog says "reddit, redditt".

THIS CHEQUE IS VOID WITHOUT A COLOURED BORDER AND BACKGROUND PLUS A KNIGHT & FINGERPRINT WATERMARK ON THE BACK - HOLD AT ANGLE TO VIEW

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